



This is a summary of the main points of the DOS Constitution, members should consult the Constitution for a full understanding. The Constitution is available from the General Secretary.

1. NAME

The name of the Association is **The Derbyshire Ornithological Society** ("the Charity")

2. AIM

The Charity's aim is to promote the study, recording and conservation of birds and their habitats, throughout the county of Derbyshire.

3. MEMBERSHIP

The standard membership is a Family Subscription which covers everyone in the same family at a single address and carries one vote per person over 18 at DOS Meetings. The person paying the subscription must be over 18 and will be the named person on the Subscription List and the recipient of communications. Life Membership may be bestowed on an individual by the Committee.

In addition, bodies and associations may purchase a subscription and can nominate an individual to attend meetings on its behalf.

The General Committee reserves the right to refuse membership which can be terminated for good reason subject to appeal to the General Committee.

4. ORGANISATION

a) Officers of the Charity: Chairman, Vice-Chairman, General Secretary, Treasurer and Membership Secretary elected at the AGM.

b) General Committee. The Society shall be run by the General Committee consisting of the Officers of the Charity, a minimum of 2 and not more than 11 elected members and any co-opted members (latter limited to six and the proportion must not be more than one third of the General Committee number). All members of the General Committee shall retire at the AGM and can be re-elected or re-appointed. All committee members must sign a declaration that they are over 18 and are not disqualified from serving by provisions of the Charities Act 1993 (and any amendments or advice). Members of the General Committee must meet certain standards as outlined in Section 8 of the Constitution. All General Committee members become trustees of the charity and shall have one vote in decision making, but if any person is acting in more than one capacity that person shall be entitled to only one vote.

Members of the General Committee shall be elected or re-elected only at the Annual General Meeting, except that if a member should resign or become unable to act during his/her year in office the other members may co-opt a replacement without recourse to the Membership, to act for the remainder of that year only.

Additional posts may be created by the existing members of the General Committee. Nominations for the positions on the General Committee will normally be called for in two monthly Bulletins prior to the AGM.

At least three meetings of the General Committee shall be held each year. A quorum shall be at least one third of the number of members of the General Committee for the time

being or five members of the General Committee, whichever is the greater, are present at a meeting.

c) Sub-committees. Sub-committees shall be formed as determined by the General Committee.

The Chairman of each sub-committee shall be responsible for its organisation but shall inform the General Committee of any co-opted members. Sub-committees have the power of co-option.

d) Honorary Officers: The Society shall have a President and Vice President who shall be honorary officers with no executive powers.

5. SUBSCRIPTIONS

These shall become due on the 1st of January each year. Members joining between 1st January and 31st August must pay a full year's subscription and will be entitled to an Annual Report at that year's end. Members joining from 1st September will be entitled to membership until 31st December of the following year BUT will not be entitled to a free copy of the Annual Report for the year they joined. Any member whose subscription is three months in arrears shall be deemed to have resigned.

6. ALTERATIONS TO THE RULES

The Rules of the Society may only be altered if such alteration is proposed by a member and seconded by at least five others at an ordinary members indoor meeting, published in a subsequent Monthly Bulletin, included in the agenda of the following AGM and passed by a simple majority. No alteration in the rules may be made which would cause the Society to cease to be a charity.

7. DISSOLUTION OF THE SOCIETY

Any funds remaining upon the dissolution of the Society shall be transferred to an institution having charitable aims similar to those of the Society.